



2016 Key stage assessments

In the summer term of 2016, children in Year 2 and Year 6 will be the first to take the new SATs papers. These tests in English and maths will reflect the new national curriculum, and are intended to be more rigorous. There will also be a completely new marking scheme to replace the existing national curriculum levels.

At the end of Year 6, children will sit tests in:

- Reading
- Maths
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar

These tests will be both set and marked externally, and the results will be used to measure the school's performance (for example, through reporting to Ofsted and published league tables). Your child's marks will be used in conjunction with teacher assessment to give a broader picture of their attainment.

Key stage 2 Reading

The reading test will be a single paper with questions based on three passages of text. **Your child will have one hour, including reading time, to complete the test.**

There will be a selection of question types, including:

- **Ranking/ordering**, e.g. 'Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story'
- **Labelling**, e.g. 'Label the text to show the title of the story'
- **Find and copy**, e.g. 'Find and copy one word that suggests what the weather is like in the story'
- **Short constructed response**, e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- **Open-ended response**, e.g. 'Look at the sentence that begins *Once upon a time*. How does the writer increase the tension throughout this paragraph? Explain fully, referring to the text in your answer.'

How to support your child with Reading

- Read with your child: get your child to read aloud to you, and then ask them questions such as the examples given above.
- Read aloud to your child whilst your child follows the text: listening is an important part of reading; it will help your child learn the importance of punctuation and reading with expression.

Key stage 2 Grammar, punctuation and spelling

The grammar, punctuation and spelling test will consist of two parts: a **grammar and punctuation paper** requiring short answers, lasting 45 minutes, and an **aural spelling test of 20 words**, lasting around 15 minutes.

The grammar and punctuation test will include two sub-types of questions:

- **Selected response**, e.g. 'Identify the adjectives in the sentence below'
- **Constructed response**, e.g. 'Correct/complete/rewrite the sentence below,' or, 'The sentence below has an apostrophe missing. Explain why it needs an apostrophe.'



How to support your child with Grammar, spelling and punctuation

- When reading to and/or with your child discuss their use of inverted commas to mark speech, the use of parenthesis (brackets) to add additional information, the use of capital letters etc.
- Work through KS2 spelling words - investigate segmenting the words, common factors, prefixes and suffixes, spelling rules. (found on the website - Curriculum)
- Revision books. Unfortunately, the grammar paper relies on a child knowing the terminology e.g. subordinate clause, main clause, adjective, article, passive, active - and many more. We use these in daily teaching practice however, for additional support at home, there is a wealth of revision guides that could help your child become familiar and fluent with the terms they will come across: we recommend *Achieve 100 Grammar, punctuation and spelling revision* by Rising Stars & *Achieve 100 Grammar, punctuation and spelling practice questions* by Rising Stars

Key stage 2 Maths

Children will sit three papers in maths:

- Paper 1: **arithmetic**, 30 minutes
- Papers 2 and 3: **reasoning**, 40 minutes per paper

Paper 1 will consist of fixed response questions, where children have to give the correct answer to calculations, including long multiplication and division. Papers 2 and 3 will involve a number of question types, including:

- Multiple choice
- True or false
- Constrained questions, e.g. giving the answer to a calculation, drawing a shape or completing a table or chart
- Less constrained questions, where children will have to explain their approach for solving a problem

How to support your child with maths

- Knowing their timetables - if you know your timetable children can use them accurately and quickly for multiplication, division. To help your child learn their timetables (up to X12) we recommend: most times tables quiz App or homemade flash cards work just as well.
- Formal method for the four operations practice: it is important child can complete methods accurately. (Methods for year 6 child: column addition, column subtraction, short multiplication, long multiplication, short division, long division including expressing remainders as fractions, decimals and remainder form)
- Arithmetic speed practice

Key stage 2 Science

Not all children in Year 6 will take science SATs. However, a number of schools will be required to take part in science sampling: a test administered to a selected sample of children thought to be representative of the population as a whole. (Monday 6 to Friday 17 June is the science sampling test period in which your child might sit the tests.) For those who are selected, there will be three papers:

- **Biology:** 25 minutes, 22 marks
- **Chemistry:** 25 minutes, 22 marks
- **Physics:** 25 minutes, 22 marks



It sounds very intimidating, but these are 'questions in a physics/chemistry/biology context', for example:

Biology: 'Describe the differences in the life cycle of an amphibian and a mammal'

Chemistry: 'Group a list of materials according to whether they are solid, liquid or gas'

Physics: 'Predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, based on where the poles are facing'

When will the Key Stage 2 assessments take place?

The Year 6 KS2 SATs will be administered in the week commencing 9 May 2016.

Are there any sample papers?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-2016-sample-materials>

Our Top Tips

- Tip 1: Remember your child's education is a partnership. Meet with their teachers as they will know your child? Strengths and weaknesses, and ask them how you can help (parents evening is a great opportunity for this).
- Tip 2: Support your child with homework tasks and daily reading. Try drawing or acting out answers of difficult concepts.
- Tip 3: Encourage your child to work to speed. Try timed recall of timetables in the car/journey to school. Set min challenges for example - 'can you find the word on the page that means 'dangerous' you have 1 minute - go!' 'What is 10% of 150? You have 10 seconds - go!'
- Tip 4: Make sure your child is aware that getting stuck is not a problem. Move on and give them another challenge and come back to the hard ones at the end and/or go through it together.
- Tip 5: Encourage your child to believe in themselves, 'you can do it!'
- Tip 6: Remind your child that the tests are important, but that they are not the only way they are to be measured. We don't want child panicking or worried, we want them to be prepared.
- Tip 7: Approach a subject from lots of different angles. Software, games, activities, books, flash cards and practical applications all help? make the revision time at home as fun and interactive as possible.
- Tip 8: It is easier said than done, BUT do not put your child under too much pressure. Have fun - they will find things easier to remember if they recall the good times they had learning.
- Tip 9: Celebrate your child's other strengths and talents. These will not be formally tested, but can make a difference in their future.